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STATEMENT REGARDING

Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 63: RESOLUTION PROPOSING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROTECT TRANSPORTATION FUNDS Governor's Bill No. 6857: AN ACT PROTECTING TRANSPORTATION FUNDS

**Connecticut General Assembly
Transportation Committee
February 25, 2015**

The MetroHartford Alliance serves as the region's economic development leader and the City of Hartford's Chamber of Commerce. Our investors include businesses of all sizes, health care providers, arts and higher education institutions as well as the municipalities of North Central Connecticut. Our mission is to ensure that the region competes aggressively and successfully for jobs, capital, and talent so that it thrives as one of the country's premier places for all people to live, play, work, and raise a family.

Connecticut needs a robust, multi-modal transportation system that will enhance our ability to grow jobs, attract capital, and retain and recruit talent. Establishing and maintaining such a system will require a commitment to a long-term vision and to securing sustainable funding. The MetroHartford Alliance supports efforts by Governor Malloy and legislators on both sides of the aisle to invest in Connecticut's transportation infrastructure while ensuring that all transportation funding streams are secured through a constitutional amendment.

The MetroHartford Alliance supports a constitutional amendment that incorporates three important components:

- Identifying specific funding streams to be secured
- Defining permitted expenditures to ensure that such funds are used solely for transportation purposes
- Establishing a bipartisan authority to manage the development of a multi-modal, comprehensive long-term transportation strategy for the state.

A secure, sustained investment in transportation will strengthen Connecticut's economy by providing jobs while enhancing our infrastructure for decades to come. These investments will ensure that Connecticut is tied effectively to the national and global economies and is valued for its transportation technology. Further, investments in infrastructure will help Connecticut to leverage its transportation system to compete for jobs, capital and talent.

The Alliance is committed to working with Governor Malloy and the legislature to craft and support a constitutional amendment that establishes secure, sustained transportation funding. We appreciate the opportunity to submit this testimony and encourage the members of the Transportation Committee to support Governor's House Joint Resolution No. 63 and Governor's Bill No. 6857.